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LETTER DATED 30 MAY 1998 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF IRAQ TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

On instructions from my Government, I have the honour to transmit to you herewith a letter dated 30 May 1998 from Mr. Tariq Aziz, Deputy Prime Minister and Acting Minister for Foreign Affairs of Iraq. The Minister calls attention to the violations of Iraq's airspace committed by the United States U-2 spy plane during April 1998 on the pretext of carrying out an aerial survey for the Special Commission and urges that Iraqi equipment should be used in the work of the Special Commission instead of foreign equipment.

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter and its annex circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Nizar HAMDOON
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

Annex

Letter dated 30 May 1998 from the Deputy Prime Minister and Acting Minister for Foreign Affairs of Iraq addressed to the Secretary-General

We should like to refer to our letters addressed to you, the most recent of which was that of 28 April 1998, concerning the violation of Iraq's airspace by the United States U-2 spy plane on the pretext of carrying out an aerial survey for the Special Commission. We should like to inform you that during the month of April 1998 this aircraft committed four fresh violations of Iraq's airspace during which it overflew wide areas of the country for a total of 17 hours and 11 minutes. On each occasion, the aircraft took off from its base in Saudi territory and returned to the same base after completing its mission. The particulars of these violations are presented hereunder.

Date	Day	From	To	Duration
2 April 1998	Thursday	1000	1428	4 h 28 m
7 April 1998	Tuesday	1027	1420	3 h 53 m
15 April 1998	Wednesday	1230	1650	4 h 20 m
21 April 1998	Tuesday	1230	1700	4 h 30 m

These four incidents have raised the number of violations committed by this aircraft to 408. In condemning and deprecating these unwarranted violations of our airspace, we reaffirm the position that Iraq has constantly maintained, namely that this aircraft is being used for purposes other than those of the Special Commission and that its activities are prejudicial to the sovereignty and security of Iraq. We also reaffirm Iraq's standing demand that Iraqi equipment must be used in the work of the Special Commission instead of foreign equipment in order to exclude any possibility of its being used for other purposes that are prejudicial to Iraq's sovereignty and security. On this basis, the United Nations must reconsider the question of using this spy plane, given that its use is incompatible with the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations as they relate to respect for the equality and sovereignty of all Member States. Iraq reserves its right to seek compensation for the material and other damage caused by these violations.

(Signed) Tariq AZIZ
Deputy Prime Minister and
Acting Minister for Foreign Affairs
of the Republic of Iraq